



## FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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*For Immediate Release*

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# The Festive Season Gets Underway at Sully

Sights, sounds and smells of Christmas past are revealed as glowing candles illuminate the house and grounds at Sully Historic Site. Follow the lantern-lit path to the 1794 home of northern Virginia's first congressman, Richard Bland Lee, and take in the rare sight of 18th century rooms aglow with candlelight. On Saturday and Sunday evenings, December 8th and 9th, tours begin at 5 p.m. with the last tour at 8:15 p.m. on Saturday, and 7:15 p.m. on Sunday.

Inside the house hear about Christmas customs of the Federal period, then gather around the tree festooned with toys, angels and popcorn and hear memories of a Victorian Christmas according to a little girl's recollections from 1885. In the parlor enjoy carols played on the 1820 pianoforte and hammered dulcimer. Upstairs on Saturday evening historian and musician Michael McDonnell portrays a traveling teacher and fills the halls with fiddle tunes heard at Sully 200 years ago.

Outdoors, warm yourself by the fire and savor hot apple cider and sugar cookies made according to a recipe from Sully's Open Hearth Cookbook. Follow the lighted path to the slave quarter to find out how enslaved African Americans might have spent the holiday season at Sully. Stop by the kitchen while special foods are prepared for the festivities.

Soldiers from the 51st Engineer Combat Battalion recreate a World War II Christmas celebration while Confederate soldiers from Virginia Regiments recall a Civil War Christmas in the field. Listen for the jingle bells that adorn the robe of our Victorian St. Nicholas. Hear about the history of Santa Claus and receive a treat.

Prepaid reservations are required. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors and children. Tours are given at timed intervals. Visitors are advised to dress for the weather. For reservations and information, please call 703-437-1794.

Sully Historic Site, a Fairfax County Park Authority site in Chantilly, Virginia is located on Route 28 north, ¼ mile north of Route 50 and four miles south of the Dulles Toll Road (Route 267). Sully's new entrance from Air and Space Museum Parkway is now open. For park directions visit our website at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/Sully](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/Sully).

For a downloadable photograph visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/photos](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/photos) or call the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662. (Photo credit Don Sweeney, FCPA)

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